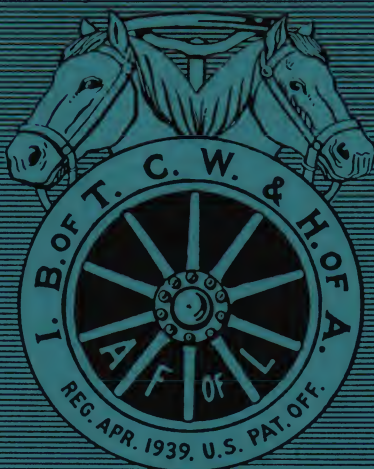


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MAY, 1941

Official Magazine
**INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD
TEAMSTERS - CHAUFFEURS
WAREHOUSEMEN & HELPERS
of AMERICA**



IF I do not write exactly what you believe in, don't blame me, because you made me your President and Editor and I am human and cannot always write the things that 450,000 or 500,000 of our members all believe in. There must be a few everywhere who see things from another standpoint. I do the best I can. Thanks a million for your letters of approval and encouragement. For years I have tried to get the convention to relieve me of the editorship of the Journal, as I believe I am the only head of an International Union who is also holding the position of Editor. The membership in convention decided otherwise. As a matter of fact, I will let you in on a secret. I tried to relieve myself of some of the work, as I am tired of travelling, of trains, of running around and engaging in conferences of every description, and I had an idea that the Board would relieve me and make me Secretary-Treasurer and give the position of General President to someone else. I made this suggestion to our General Executive Board at its meeting in Indianapolis when they were choosing a Secretary-Treasurer. They did not agree with me for reasons which they themselves expressed. They needed me at the head now more than ever, etc. The members of our General Executive Board are men of the highest quality and understanding, coming from all parts of the country. Their decision, as far as I am concerned, or the decision of our conventions, no matter what may be my own opinions, is final and binding and must and will be observed by me.

I make the above statement not in the spirit of apology, but asking your indulgence, asking you to bear with me if sometimes some of the things that I write are not pleasing to you. I try to keep you informed on national and world affairs, as well as the affairs of our own Union, which are my first consideration. We receive considerable criticism from those publications owned and controlled by employers and by the enemies of Labor. When you are reading this, there will be distributed a publication selling for a dollar a copy, that may say a great many unpleasant things about our organization and about the writer, but that is the price we pay because we are chosen as heads of the organization. At least our own people who have watched, with me, this organization grow from almost nothing to where it is today, a great, powerful institution, having the good will of governmental representatives, of employers and of Labor—at least you who have seen and witnessed these revolutions within our organization must agree that we have done some good in life.

TO OUR membership in the Middle West I desire to say that we cannot and will not publish in our Journal anything that would lead towards washing the dirty linen of the Labor Movement. You must remember that all of our enemies, including employers, many colleges, newspapers and magazines, read our publication each month. Why should we give them cause to rejoice by enlarging on the unfair attitude of certain labor organizations towards one another? The poison pen, the filthy writer, and the laundry washer sending out scurrilous statements one against the other in our Labor Movement, is deplorable. It only helps to bring comfort and solace to those who would destroy us.

● OFFICIAL MAGAZINE ●

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Daniel J. Tobin, Editor

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When Business "Regiments" Business

The U. S. Chamber of Commerce
is talking about the virtues of "free
competition" and denouncing the gov-
ernment for "regimenting" business.

Take pins and office paper clips. The
Federal Trade Commission charges
that manufacturers in this industry
have "combined to fix and maintain
prices and prevent competition."

This case is "small potatoes" com-
pared to the competition-killing com-
bines the commission has exposed in
steel, cement and almost all the big
industries, but it's worth examining.

If there is any industry in which
"free competition" might be expected
to thrive it would be this one—no
huge plants or expensive equipment;
no worry about a supply of raw
material.

But the pin and clip manufacturers
did not want free competition, so
they organized the "Organization
Service Corporation" and it formed
the "Pin Manufacturing Institute"
and the "Metal Paper Fastener In-
stitute."

These three organizations pro-
ceeded to fix uniform prices, to insist
on identical bids to all purchasers, in-
cluding the government, and to take
steps to see that all manufacturers
"obeyed the rules and regulations."

The Federal Trade Commission is
the "policeman" employed by Uncle
Sam to suppress these evil practices.
It is doing fine work, but members of
the commission would be among the
first to confess that they are scarcely
scratching the surface.—*Labor*.



EDITORIAL



(By DANIEL J. TOBIN)

THE one splendid redeeming feature in President Roosevelt from a human standpoint is his power to overcome dislikes or to hold within him any semblance of hatred of men. I went through and was very closely connected with the last three political campaigns in our country. I was in a position to know the awful bitter denunciation of President Roosevelt and his family by the opposing candidates. I was in a position to see and to understand the cruelties and the injustice of many of the charges made. In all of the campaigns he never mentioned the name of the opposing candidate but once. Those of you who remember his wonderful address at our convention, which was his opening address of the campaign, will know that he never used one word of bitterness, nor did he bring the opposing candidate into that wonderful discussion on the issues confronting the nation. That speech was broadcast throughout the nation and throughout the whole world. In my analysis of men I have attributed this quality of the thoroughbred gentleman to a condition of mind and soul that is rarely found in a human being, and after knowing him for many years before he became Governor of New York, and watching his career all during the years, I believe that at least fifty per cent of his success has been due to the fact that he has so completely eliminated hatred from his system. I was a great admirer of Woodrow Wilson. He was perhaps one of the most highly educated statesmen we had up to his time, but he did not have the genial personality of Lincoln, nor the wonderful power to eliminate bitterness from his system as has Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The approval of the Treaty of the League of Nations, on which Woodrow Wilson had set his own mind, was refused by the United States Senate—not because of world politics but because of the hatred between Wilson and Senator Henry Cabot Lodge of Massachusetts, the father of the present Senator. Lodge, a great scholar out of Harvard, considered one of the smoothest statesmen in the United States Senate, with his environment and training from the blue-bloods of Massachusetts, considered Wilson an upstart, an accident, a reformer, filled with his own importance. Lodge and his group had been for years in control of the government of the United States and could not stand for anyone else telling them what to do. Wilson, in his hatred of Lodge, after returning from France, instead of taking Lodge into his confidence in the interest of the nation and appointing him as one of the commissioners to sit at the table in Versailles, ignored Lodge and his type. That hatred and bitterness could perhaps indirectly be the cause of the present world destruction of life and property. I was for the League of Nations. I am for it now. Why? If conciliation and arbitration are good for Labor, if they are good for disputes obtaining between States, why should they not be good for nations? At any rate, the isolationists of that day who argued “keep away from Europe” haven’t had much success, because their visions and their dreams and their arguments have been exploded. We cannot keep away from Europe because Europe will not keep away from us. Recently a statement was made in Washington by the head of our government, substantiated by the State Department, that German planes were flying over

Greenland exploring the territory. Twenty years from now we will go to Europe and return in twenty-four hours. The war of 1917-18 was on land and battlefields. The war of today is in the air. How very wrong were they who opposed a treaty where nations could sit down and try to settle their disputes. Could conditions have been worse than they are now if we had been a part of the League of Nations? No, they could not have been worse, because in the whole history of the world there was never a more disturbing, awful, dangerous condition existing than there is on this day that I write this article, the day after Easter. If the United States had been an active party in the League of Nations we might have helped to watch Germany so that she would not have built up an army that is almost unconquerable. Those that were in the League of Nations certainly made a mess of things. At the Treaty of Versailles they crippled Germany for centuries economically. They thought more of getting dollars or territory than they did of preventing a future war. That's the condition at least that we have before us now, and no one knows where it will end. Throughout the world today America leads in statesmanship, and, I think, in courage and in clearness of vision. Is there anything more wonderful, more patriotic, more thoroughly human and understanding than to have Franklin D. Roosevelt and Wendell Willkie sitting down together, exchanging thoughts and opinions, working together to the end that we may save what may be the fragments of civilization, or at least protect our own country from destruction? Those two men, who were out on the platform campaigning against each other, have within them that splendid character of truth and hope and love of country which could not obtain unless they were able to drive from their minds the venomous serpent of hatred. A great medical scientist not long ago, in addressing the medical fraternity in an eastern city, stated that one of the greatest destroyers of nerves and mind and sinews was the disease of hatred, which brought no results except to continuously eat and sap the very foundation of the health and strength of the individual cursed with such an affliction.

The first thing we do when we become members of the union is to pledge ourselves to help one another, to better understand each other, and at all times to guard the good name of our individual brother and of our union. Yes, of course I know, because I have lived through it, we have made substantial progress along those lines. I remember the time in Boston before we organized, unless you came from a certain part of the country or unless you belonged to a certain church or political party, you were hated and despised by the other fellow. This we eliminated. But as our membership is growing and as we are growing older we seem to be forgetting that obligation. It would be well that we remember it and practice it, and that when we go home at night we go home with the determination that we will injure no brother or member of this organization, and that we will destroy the serpent of hatred against anyone, because—keep this in mind—unless you do, that poison will eventually destroy you.

ON page 19 of the International Constitution, Section 6, is outlined the power and authority of the General President to appoint a Trustee over any local union. Boiled down, it means this: that the General President, if he believes that the affairs of a local union are not conducted for the

benefit of the trade or for the benefit of the entire organization, may appoint a Trustee to take charge and control of all the affairs of the local union. That Trustee is empowered and authorized to take full charge of the affairs of the local union, to remove for the period of his Trusteeship any and all officers, to appoint temporary officers during his Trusteeship, and to take any other action that, in his judgment, is necessary for the preservation of the local union and its interests. Under this law, which was carefully considered before being adopted, a Trustee can be appointed by the General President to take full charge of the local union whenever the General President believes there is any officer who is not acting right, or whenever, in his judgment, the local is not conducted in the best interests of the general Labor Movement and of the local membership. The General President isn't required to prefer charges against anyone to take this action. If a local union, through the influence of its officers, refuses to recognize the Trustee or the action of the General President, based on the Constitution, then on said refusal, the General President can prefer charges against the local union, give them a hearing, and can, for their refusal to carry out decisions, revoke the charter and reorganize the local union and insist that none of those responsible for defiance of the International Union and its laws be admitted to membership. We do not very often appoint a Trustee. We do not want to do it. We have to do it once in a while. At the present time we have Trustees over ten different local unions affiliated with the International. It is only when we believe there is danger for the membership, danger for the International Union, or when we feel that the officers are just using the union for their own selfish, personal and financial purposes, or for other purposes detrimental to the International Union and to the Labor Movement, that we appoint a Trustee. When the local union is straightened out and ready to take care of its own affairs the Trustee can either appoint officers for a stated term, or he can call an election of officers and shall exclude from nominations for office those who, in his judgment, are not capable of filling the office or who are not qualified to run for office, or who had given any aid or encouragement to the previous officers in defiance of the International Union. I repeat, better have no unions at all than to have unions run to promote dangerous doctrines, or to just have a charter on the wall which gives license to the union to do that which is wrong, or license to the officers to use the local union for their own personal or financial benefit.

Those who read this article are advised to beware and to observe our laws. Don't fool yourself that you can deceive us. We know those who are right and those who are wrong. And don't misjudge us as being afraid to take action in accordance with the Constitution, because once you go out you cannot come back to this International Union. That is the history of this International Union and that is the record that has made it a success. So beware before it is too late. And remember also that we have several means of obtaining information as International Officers that you know nothing about. We exercise the greatest patience before we act. In other words, we give anyone who is playing the game wrong a chance to get right; but we shall not permit our unions to be soft berths for certain individuals, giving them an opportunity to defraud and also to in some instances spread dangerous doctrines.

IN A decision recently rendered by the Federal Court of Appeals in New York, relative to Local 807, we desire to say that of course we rejoice in the victory of the local union. This case had been going on for several years, inherited by the present Department of Justice from their predecessors. In the first branch of the Federal courts the organization and its officers were defeated. The local union was fined ten thousand dollars and several of the officers were sentenced and fined. The victory now obtained as a result of the decision of the Court of Appeals in favor of the union, setting aside the decision of Federal Judge Murray Hulbert, is a cause for rejoicing. But it is a matter that should also be considered seriously, because undoubtedly the government will take the case on appeal to the full bench of the United States Supreme Court for final clarification and decision. We hope the union will be successful. This does not mean, however, that because the court sets up a line of demarcation in its interpretation of what racketeering is considered, the union or any individual of the union can practice or put into operation a system, individually or collectively, that would be an injury to the union or to the industry. As we understand the decision, it was, in substance: The government charged the union and its officers with racketeering because they were stopping trucks at certain parts of the city—trucks coming in from out of town—putting members of Local 807 on the trucks and charging a day's pay amounting to \$9.20 for taking the load and delivering it, whether it took two hours or seven hours. The court decided that this was labor. It was not money obtained for racketeering purposes and it was not money that was turned in to the local union. It was wages. The men gave some labor for the money.

There is another law which very sharp lawyers in government service might think up and that we will have to perhaps fight some day, and that is the endeavor by shrewd corporation lawyers, aided and abetted and encouraged by not such clever government lawyers, that interstate commerce may be involved. However, when that time comes we will have to meet the situation.

What the International Union has said or done at any time in the case of Local 807 in New York, we will not go into here except to say that unions must be exceptionally careful, and even in instances where a liberal, human court decides on the law as it is now written, unions must not get it into their heads that they are all-powerful. The point we are trying to make is that Labor as a whole, especially our own people, must be very careful and watchful that they do not abuse their powers or get over-confident of their strength, to the injury of an industry or trade, because the very same legislators that put through those favorable laws recently interpreted by the Federal courts sustaining Labor's contentions—I repeat, that same government, or its successor, can eliminate, by repeal, from the statute books those progressive laws if they are abused or if they are not observed sensibly by the men of Labor. There is nothing more dangerous than the belief that one cannot be defeated or that a union or an employer is all-powerful.

—•—

YOU read in the minutes of the meeting of the General Executive Board, which were published recently, that because of conditions surrounding the International Union and the fact that four-fifths of the Labor Movement of America of both factions are located with headquarters in Washington, D. C., our International Union decided to move their headquarters to that city. It was also decided and authorized that building sites be

looked into for the purpose of erecting general headquarters for the International Union. Consideration will also be given as to whether the building will be exclusively for offices for the International Union, or whether an office building similar to that owned by the Bricklayers' Union—which is a very sound investment—might be erected. It will take some time, of course, to get these things started. The General Officers may move before their own headquarters are erected. It may be necessary to move because of the many serious problems in legislation, interstate commerce, statistical work, reports and conferences with labor executives, and the many other requirements now made on the International Union. It may be necessary in the very near future for the General President to move his offices to the city of Washington. In that case General Secretary-Treasurer Gillespie would have full charge of the present headquarters until he could make arrangements later on to move. We have in Washington at the present time several branches of our International Union, which continuously have to telephone to us or contact us as to matters of importance that require our immediate and personal attention. Especially is this true of the Legal Department and the Legislative Department of the International Union. Nearly every other day there are conferences called on important legislation amongst the International Officers of trade unions located in Washington.

A few years ago in the city of Indianapolis there were located the headquarters of the Mine Workers' International Union, the Bricklayers' International Union, the Iron Workers' International Union, and the Bookbinders' International Union, as well as the management of the journal of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen. All those have moved to Washington with the exception of the Iron Workers, who have moved out of Indianapolis and are located in St. Louis. You will be notified in time, through the columns of the Journal, when the General President will move his Department to Washington. In the meantime, General Secretary-Treasurer Gillespie, who is fully capable, will have full charge of the headquarters in Indianapolis until, as stated above, arrangements have been made for moving his office and headquarters, which may not be for many months.

OUT of 37,450 people killed by motor vehicles on the highways of our country in the year 1940, we have only had reported to us five members of our union killed in accidents. In three instances the death was due to the carelessness of others. In two instances it was due to faulty mechanism of the trucks. There were, however, according to the best records obtainable in Washington, not less than 200,000 people injured during the year—about 35,000 seriously and in many instances permanently injured. This is an awful toll to pay for the advancement of modern science and for the development in transportation. Accidents due to the carelessness of our union members are almost insignificant. There are many reasons for this. The industry has been raised to a high standard in wages and hours. Through our union, we have brought into the industry the highest type of workmen, men who are alert, educated, healthy and competent in every way. In addition to this, we have insisted, and will continue to insist, on sobriety and temperance on the part of our members during their hours of employment. Let us state right here that no man is one hundred per cent perfect after he has taken one or two drinks of alcohol, and the danger to himself has increased twenty-one per cent.

Oh yes, you are going to say that your Editor and President is getting soft or that he is trying to preach you lectures on morality. That is not the case. I am not a total abstainer and I am not a "dry" as the term is understood; but I have had years of experience and I know the dangers confronting a man under the influence of drink driving one of our heavy trucks through the highways of our country. Every faculty of the human mind must be perfect, and the brain must function perfectly and understanding must be clear. Quickness of thought and action are dulled immediately after alcohol enters the system. If a man desires to relax after his day's work and have one or two glasses of beer and stops at that, there is no serious crime committed; but unfortunately few can stop. Alcohol is a drug. During working hours abstinence from intoxicating liquors should prevail. Indulgence in intoxicating liquors is inexcusable during working hours, and unions, for the protection of their members and the public, should insist on that rule. In the old days when men drove horses it was not quite so dangerous because very often, in my early days on a truck, I have seen the horses bring the driver home. That is not the case today, as the wonderful motor monsters having 150 horsepower are incapable of human understanding. The turning of the head, the closing of an eye, or even sneezing might cause the death of some innocent person on the road or of the operator of a motor truck. The miracle of modern civilization is that there are not more people killed because of the absolute criminal negligence of State Legislatures in refusing to enact rigid laws governing the issuing of motor or auto licenses to drivers. There are thousands of individuals driving motor vehicles that are seriously impaired in vision or sight. There are others whose mental composition is so weak that in a case of emergency their power of thinking and acting is stagnated. There are also the unfortunate creatures diseased physically and mentally, driving wildly through the highways of the nation, endangering the lives of innocent, hard-working men and women. Then again, where we lack legislation to protect the public, we find in certain families four or five persons, some of them not more than fifteen years of age, driving the family machine. In no country of the world would such criminal negligence obtain except our own, and the slaughter is becoming so great that we are hoping the day is soon at hand when strict examinations will prevail against the power and influence of the motor manufacturers, who want no laws to protect the public and are successful in seeing everyone driving some kind of automobile or motor vehicle, so that they may continue to pile up profits through greater sales.

Let me finish where I began in this message. Don't let anyone, including yourself, kid you that you are just as careful after you have had two or three drinks as you were without those drinks. Human nature, after all, is subject to its weaknesses and its alibis and excuses. The human mind also has understanding and intelligence, God-given and inspired, which is working every day, teaching and reasoning with the driver of a motor vehicle, making him understand and believe that he is much safer while driving by being scrupulously temperate.

BECAUSE of the enormous propaganda of hate going on now throughout the nation against the Labor Movement in general, our organization, because of its extensive membership, has been included in the attacks. We touch every industry and trade throughout the nation and at this time we have a smaller percentage of men on strike, with over 500,000 paid-up members, than at any time within recent years at this period of the year.

This is due to the fact that our representatives, nationally and locally, have been able to convince and educate both our own members and our employers as to the necessity of reaching agreements and understandings without recourse to stoppages of work.

The good things done by this International Union are not published. There is a concerted, well organized, well financed program prepared by capable writers and publicists, with the end in view of destroying the efficiency of Labor. It is safe to say that almost ninety-eight per cent of the daily newspapers and the weekly and monthly magazines, which are owned and controlled by capitalists or by business men, are now directing their influence against Labor in this campaign, enlarging, misrepresenting and willfully misinterpreting certain acts and conditions within Labor. And the Labor Movement, unfortunately, is not able to get its side of the story in the papers; and in many instances the men of Labor do not seem to realize the dangers confronting their own institutions. We cannot get our side of the case published by newspapers no matter how we write it. I repeat, the publicity on the part of Labor is, in many instances, weak and inefficient, but even if it were competent it would not succeed because of the determined organization maintained by employers to destroy or weaken the prestige of Labor.

Amongst the organizations most bitterly attacked is the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and Chauffeurs. This is due to the fact that the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and Chauffeurs is powerful; but they refuse to write the real fact, which is that the International Union never abuses its power.

The aim and purpose of this campaign is to help enact legislation which will have a tendency to destroy or weaken the favorable legislation that Labor has been successful in placing on the statute books of both state and nation in recent years. In thirty-six of the states within the Union there has been introduced legislation which, if enacted, would destroy the usefulness of the progressive laws now on the books, and practically strangle the efforts of Labor in the coming years to do anything for its membership, and subject the members and the officers, locally and nationally, to persecution and prosecution. The President of this International Union is continuously alert, watching, answering, arguing and debating with our enemies the work we have done, the work we are doing, and what we contemplate in the future. It is useless for us to say that ninety-five per cent of our employers hold us in the highest esteem for the fairness and honesty of our actions. They admit that while disagreeing and while militant to a certain extent, we have been reasonable in our defense of our membership.

A certain magazine, in its May issue, is publishing a lengthy article dealing with the history of our organization up to the present day. This costly monthly magazine has a circulation of about 150,000, and of course, as you know, it is not purchased by the rank and file of the workers of the nation, but is entirely patronized in its advertising, and purchased, by large corporations or by those who would destroy Labor. We co-operated with them by giving them whatever information we could in our headquarters. We knew very well that if we refused to co-operate, the written article would be perhaps more dangerous and more injurious, if that could be possible. This magazine is—as are newspapers and other periodicals—supported by the advertising of rich corporations, as well as being owned and controlled by business men. They write in accordance with the desire of their patrons and their owners.

Our membership must keep this advice of a great American statesman continually in their minds, "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." The only organizations that can live and prosper are those whose leaders are alive and alert, locally and nationally, to the dangers that surround them. Labor unions for years were allowed to go along tamely because they did not amount to a great deal. Once in a while a politician threw them out a sop of some kind, perhaps a job or two. Today Labor, because of its aggressiveness, its intelligence and its untiring leadership, locally and nationally, is responsible for the progressive government we enjoy in our national capitol and in many of our states. Labor must not only organize and argue conditions for its members, but men who are in elective offices must continually keep before the public the true story and purpose of Labor. There is no room today in the Labor Movement for those who are just willing to sit down and draw their salaries. There never was need of greater caution, care and watchfulness. Therefore the story of Labor, its aims, its objects and its reasons must be told intelligently to the public. There is no greater means of getting to the public mind than through the radio—perhaps the greatest invention of the human mind. Undoubtedly a message of interest over the radio will reach many more millions than if you were to pay for space in newspapers. At least once every three months—certainly not less than twice a year—each Joint Council should obtain radio time of not less than twenty to thirty minutes, and some individual officer of the organization should be chosen to deliver the message of the Teamsters, a carefully prepared, well balanced, educational, instructive trade union message, especially emphasizing the good that our organization is doing for its members and for its employers. One with a radio voice should be chosen. Time can be obtained free on local stations very often, but if it cannot be obtained free, Joint Councils and local unions are now able to pay for this service, which is not only helpful in offsetting anti-labor propaganda paid for by our enemies, but it would have a tendency towards organizing hundreds of unorganized in the district, and it will also have a tendency to make your membership proud of their leadership because of the lessons set forth in your radio addresses. The money of our unions should be expended judiciously and carefully, but there are no results for any expenditure compared with the results that can be obtained from radio addresses in these days when we are attacked through publicity from all sides. Most Joint Councils hold banquets, and they are to be commended. Several unions hold gatherings of a social nature. I am not opposed to those things, but money spent for publicity—and publicity is part of our defense—brings better results than entertainments and banquets.

The International Executive Board will also give this question of defending ourselves in the public eye, consideration at its next meeting.

The International Constitution, on page 7, reads as follows:

SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS BARRED FROM MEMBERSHIP

Sec. 3. (a). No member of the Communist Party, nor any person who subscribes to its doctrines, shall be allowed to hold membership or be admitted to membership in any local union of the international organization. If by false statements such individual has obtained membership he shall be expelled. It is not necessary that the individual charged with membership in the Communist Party admit his membership in said party. If the local executive board, by majority vote, is satisfied by the evidence presented that the individual is a

member of the Communist Party or any branch of the Communist Party, or subscribes to its doctrines, the local executive board shall expel such individual after he has obtained a proper trial, in accordance with our laws.

(b). The action of the local executive board is final and binding, with the understanding that either party has the right to appeal in accordance with this Constitution and subject to the following provision:

(c). If, in the opinion of the General President, the above section has not been complied with in principle and intent by the local union or its executive officers, he or someone appointed by him or acting for him, shall be empowered to reopen and review the case and, if he deems it advisable, he or his representative shall be empowered to transfer the case to the General Executive Board. If the General Executive Board returns a decision of guilty, the decision shall be carried out immediately, but the party found guilty shall have the right to appeal, and such appeal must be taken to the next convention of the International Union.

YOU will notice in accordance with this Constitution, which has been passed on by very able lawyers, that, boiled down, the International President is empowered, if in his judgment he deems it necessary, to take over the trial of one charged with being a member of a subversive organization, such as the Communist Party, away from the local union and before the General Executive Board.

We have information at hand that the Socialist Workers Party is about as radical as the Communist Party of Russia. Some people consider it more radical, more revolutionary. The opinion of several labor men in New York, not connected with our International Union, is that it is of a dangerous revolutionary character. The leaders of it were friendly to the late Trotsky who was recently assassinated in Mexico. Trotsky and Stalin both worked under and were great leaders with Lenin, the first head of the Communist Party and the first head of the Communist government of Russia. When Lenin died a scramble to succeed him took place and Stalin outwitted Trotsky and became the successor of Lenin. During the regime of Lenin, Trotsky was about as cruel as any man connected with those days of revolutionary extermination and butchery. Some claim he was the brains of the Lenin regime. Anyway he was the cruel element of that regime, and under his orders it is impossible to say how many great leaders were annihilated, including many that were former leaders and associates of himself and Lenin. Stalin, when he became powerful exterminated the Trotsky followers and Trotsky succeeded in escaping from Russia, settled in France for a time, and was driven from place to place and finally came across the water and settled in Mexico. From there he carried on an opposition party to Stalin for the purpose of trying to overthrow the Stalin government. The United States government would not allow him to remain in the United States. We have information of some of our members meeting with and corresponding with Trotsky.

The Socialist Workers Party has headquarters in New York City at 116 University Place, and they carry on from there. The Federal government has absolute knowledge and understanding of their workings and their leaders. Some teamsters in Minnesota are known advocates. They collect a substantial revenue from those who subscribe to their doctrines. It is true that in many instances some individuals have become members of the party without investigating its purposes. Up around Minneapolis and that vicinity many of our members have become members of this party. They have been solicited, they claim, by members of our union—in some instances officers of our union. This information has come to us from many sources. We desire to say now that it is our opinion that any member of

our union who belongs to this Socialist Workers Party is holding membership in an organization that believes in destroying our present form of government, and in accordance with our Constitution, they are not entitled to membership in our organization. We request any member who has been seduced or misinformed or encouraged to become a member of this party to immediately sever his relations with it. It is the opinion of this writer that the Federal government will undoubtedly in time take steps to protect itself against the insidious, underground, boring-from-within tactics of such parties as referred to above. Any member who is a citizen of the United States is extremely foolish to jeopardize his Americanism or his Trade Unionism and membership in our organization by having anything to do with this party or similar parties. If you are a fellow-traveler or member, give it up after you read this, or else you will find yourself in trouble. It will not be enough for you to say you are not a member. We know the tricks. We have the information. Remember that we can get along without you; you cannot get along forever in our country without us. Emma Goldman, a Communist before Communism was started, was deported to Russia. Read her statements. She afterwards cried in pity to be allowed to come back. The same was true of Haywood of the Western Federation of Miners. Our information, I repeat on the best authority, is that the Socialist Workers Party is another Communist party that wants to overthrow our government by force. Those that belong to it should get out, or else they will have to get out of our union. That's our law. We must and will carry out that law as trade unionists and as loyal Americans.

AS STATED before in the columns of this Journal, the General President does not read individual letters, and only letters of importance, bearing the seal of the local union, are called to his attention. His assistants in headquarters sort out the mail and they are instructed to keep from his desk individual letters—except personal, family letters—also anonymous letters, etc. This is the only way we can handle the business of this office and do so legally. Wage contracts and by-laws are usually handled by one of the assistants to the General President. Questions of strikes and lockouts are handled by another assistant. Serious matters, of course, dealing with these subjects are called to the attention of the General President and a conference is called of the executives in Headquarters on all matters surrounding the case, before it is referred to the General Executive Board. We must have all the information surrounding strikes and lockouts so that we in turn can inform the government or our Board members on serious problems. Our Board members are men engaged in important work, located throughout the nation, and they must have information necessary to vote intelligently on all matters.

IT IS useless to be sending in letters to the General President from someone in prison, for his help, etc. The General Office does not interfere in any cases of this kind. If it is some case in which someone is convicted and serving a sentence for something done during a strike, the matter of parole should be taken up with the officers of the local union in the district. The International Officers are not permitted, under the rules laid down by the General Executive Board, to in any way interfere. Recently I had a letter from an individual begging me to help to have him pardoned or paroled. The crime for which he was convicted was blackmail. He tried to capitalize on some private information he had about his employer

and, of course, he was trapped. This is unfortunate, a weakness of the mind. I mention it in order to give you some idea of what we have to contend with. It is unnecessary to say that blackmail is considered the most disgusting, lowest crime in the category of criminals, and in nearly all cases those guilty are caught. The best way to act is to keep out of prison by observing the laws. Of course we sympathize with unfortunate individuals who are in prison. I think that is true of every honest, decent American, but of course there will always be unfortunate individuals who sometimes impulsively make mistakes, and other times willfully believe they can beat the law. At any rate, the purpose of writing this article is to say that the International Office does not have anything to do in any way with interfering in cases of those sentenced to imprisonment, because they happen to hold membership in our organization.

I GET innumerable letters in this office, the writer asking me to publish same. This I cannot do, because our publication is not large and we need all the space for what we consider necessary information pertaining to our own organization and to the Labor Movement in general. Recently I had a letter from several men in a certain state in the South, denouncing employers who had banded together to destroy the union. I was in sympathy with the men who wrote and signed the letter. The cruelties practiced by those employers to destroy our union, were without a doubt brutal and unfair, and such procedure has been responsible for the creation of radicals within the union; and when those radicals get in power they repay,—“an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.” But my position is to guard the columns of our publication, because such a letter would be libelous, and we must guard against unnecessary law suits for libel. Any person or corporation or organization having property or finances must be exceptionally careful of what they say in the printed word. In addition to this, the printed or written word goes through the mail and you have no idea how easy it is to get into trouble with the United States Postal Department of our government by publishing anything leading towards criminal libel or anything of a threatening nature such as is contained in some of our communications. We make this explanation here so that you may understand.

RECENTLY in New York in discussing the awful situation over in Europe with one who had just returned and who is connected with the government, he gave me this picture, which may have just the slightest ray of encouragement. He said the people of the suffering countries that have been trampled upon, who had lost their early teachings, their faith, their religion, were returning to the church and to prayer. In fact, he said that in England and France, as well as in Holland and Belgium, the people pray so ardently, so reverently, so sincerely, that to this man who had been there many times before, it was an encouraging revelation or transformation of the human mind that bore fruits, helpful, holy fruits, of better morals for the future. Those of us who knew Paris and London will undoubtedly be surprised to know of groups standing in reverence before the Church of the Magdalene in silent supplication and prayer that they be saved, that their lives be spared and that their children may be permitted, with the will of God, to live. It seems as though the only consolation left for those suffering multitudes is the belief that there is a cause for their sufferings and a reward for those sufferings should they be

called, as their immediate relatives and friends have been called, to the Great Beyond. "Hope springs eternal in the human breast," and the hope of a better world hereafter, a reward for their almost indescribable sufferings and heartbreaks seems to cheer them even in the darkest hours of night. My friend said, "There is a spiritual halo around the faces of those who were somewhat hardened before the war, that brings hope and courage, the courage which will perhaps be the means of England holding out until victory crowns her efforts." This gentleman states that the same thing is true in Germany, Czechoslovakia, and Austria. We are not trying to preach religion here. Why should we? Every man has a right to think as he pleases. But what a hope! What a consolation! What a religion! What contentment there is for those poor millions of innocent, suffering people who have lost everything but hope in the great, divine belief that God will some way reward them for what they are now enduring. The finest, the most wonderful statement of the innocent Christ on the cross was, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." That, to my mind, opens the road to all human beings that no matter what they have been in the past, if they are stricken with trouble, with grief, with the loss of loved friends in this awful conflict, if they have lost home and all that it meant, they are invited by the Savior on the cross to return and find that comfort and solace which is so necessary in these dark days in which we live.

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BECAUSE of the fact that President William Green was so bitterly attacked by many people relative to initiation fees being too high, relative to undesirable characters holding membership in certain international unions, and all these other unjustified attacks, the General President wrote a letter to Senator George Norris. Senator Norris is about as good a friend as Labor has ever had in the United States Senate. He is an independent Republican from the State of Nebraska. He has never faltered when it came to defending Labor. However, he seemed to have been misinformed on facts relative to the power and duties of the President of the American Federation of Labor. As a result, your President wrote him a letter explaining the powers of the Federation and what your International Union was doing along constructive lines and its attitude towards high or exorbitant initiation fees. Senator Norris' office gave the letter to the press and the *New York Times*, one of the leading newspapers in the country or in the world, published the letter, which appears below.

The New York Times, Sunday, March 30, 1941

TOBIN DEFENDS FEES CHARGED BY UNIONS

Letter to Norris Asserts Levies Are Not
Paid by Members but by "Employment"

SAYS GREEN IS POWERLESS

Teamsters' Head Declares Own Group "Would Not Accept
Any Order" From A. F. of L.

(Special to the New York Times)

WASHINGTON, March 29.—Discussing the matter of initiation fees and dues charged by international unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, Daniel J. Tobin, President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and Chauffeurs, said today that the executive council

of the A. F. of L. and its president, William Green, were powerless to interfere, and would continue to be powerless.

In a letter to Senator Norris of Nebraska, Mr. Tobin asserted that international unions were jealous of their autonomy in finances, and he added that he was convinced that no national convention of the entire membership would ever delegate such authority to any Federation officials.

Speaking for his own union, Mr. Tobin enclosed a copy of a resolution recently adopted by its executive council urging the locals to hold down initiation fees to \$25 or \$50 as a possible preventive against restrictive legislation. In his letter Mr. Tobin conceded there is one local teamsters' union in New York which charges an initiation fee of \$250 and several which charge \$100.

Text of Mr. Tobin's Letter

Mr. Tobin's letter was as follows:

"I have noticed in the papers recently that you wrote a letter to both Mr. Green and Mr. Lewis, stating in substance that there was considerable agitation about organizations of labor charging too much for initiation fees, etc., and you asked them both to use their influence toward offsetting this public feeling at this time because you believed that it was possible that there may be a reaction against Labor throughout the country, and that said reaction may penetrate into the minds of legislators in both state and nation, with the result that anti-labor legislation may be adopted.

"I think there is no one in public life that perhaps understands the Labor Movement better than you do, and there is perhaps no one over all the years he has served our people who has been more loyal or faithful to the cause and needs of Labor, I thought I would write you this letter of explanation.

"First, Mr. Green does not have the power to regulate initiation fees of international unions. The power of the president of the federation is very limited in matters of this kind. International unions are jealous of their autonomous rights, and even when actions have been taken by the conventions of the American Federation of Labor, those decisions and actions have been questioned in the courts of our country by affiliated organizations.

Might "Consider" Order

"Might I say to you that the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, with its large membership, would not accept any order as to initiation fees from the American Federation of Labor. A suggestion from the executive council of the federation might be considered but not adopted.

"I agree with you 100 per cent that in some instances initiation fees are too high, but the average individual in public life does not understand the situation or the conditions as you do.

"President Green and the executive council have jurisdiction and can set the initiation fees of federal unions or unions directly chartered by the federation, and in that membership at the present time are 200,000; but Mr. Green and the executive council have no power whatever to interfere with international unions in the setting of their initiation fees; and if the executive council made such a recommendation to the conventions the international unions would overwhelmingly vote against such a recommendation.

"So that you may understand my feeling in the matter I am enclosing a copy of a resolution adopted at our general executive board meeting held last February, for your information.

"In your own State of Nebraska, and in Iowa, the highest initiation fee in the teamsters' unions, as nearly as I can find out, is about \$15 per member. Most of them are confined to \$10. Only \$1 of this initiation fee goes to the international union, and that pays all the expenses of that individual member for that month.

Hails New Labor Legislation

"Might I say to you also that in Nebraska and in Iowa the International Brotherhood of Teamsters was unable to organize anyone to amount to anything until the passage of the present favorable labor legislation under the Roosevelt Administration. As a result of over-the-road trucking and favorable legislation we are pretty well organized now in Nebraska and Iowa, as well as Minnesota and neighboring states.

"I think I am quite conservative when I make the statement that in five or six years the membership of our organization in those states, and in several other states, has doubled its wages. It was nothing unusual to find men driving trucks a few years ago for \$10 and \$12 a week and working unlimited hours in the states mentioned above and more especially in the southern states, such as Louisiana, Texas and the Carolinas.

"The point I am trying to make is that the man does not really pay the initiation fee. The employment pays the initiation fee and the dues of the member. It is nothing unusual for us to have men come in and join the union—in fact, beg to be admitted to membership—so that they can work on a union job where their wages would be raised inside of thirty days from \$12 or \$14 per week to \$25 or \$28, which is the union scale and which is little enough for a man to live on.

Cent a Day to International

"The minimum dues of local unions, in accordance with our laws, is \$2 per month per member, or a little less than 50 cents a week. There are local unions that charge higher dues. Out of this amount of monthly dues paid by the member into the local, the International Union receives 30 cents per month, or one cent a day per member.

"This International Union has never levied an assessment on its membership in the forty-one years it has been in existence. We have attorneys for legal advice and helpfulness. We send our monthly publication free of charge to the homes of our members, which runs into thousands of dollars. We pay organizers, international officers, assessments and dues to the American Federation of Labor, and innumerable other expenses out of this one cent a day per member.

"And we have in our treasury at this time six and a quarter million dollars in cash saved out of this one cent a day per member. And the highest salaries that are paid in the Labor Movement are paid to the officers and organizers and help employed by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and Chauffeurs. In addition to this, we carry on, free of charge, a legal department in Washington, a legislative department, and a statistical department, all paid for by the contributions of one cent a day per member.

Fee in Union Here \$250

"Getting back to the initiations, I do admit we have unions that charge \$100 initiation fee. They are very few—not more than a half dozen out of a thousand local unions chartered. And I find on investigation one local union in New York charging \$250. The action of the general executive

board, as contained in the enclosed resolution, will advise you of our feeling and attitude toward such initiation fees. The answer of those unions is that they have splendid conditions in wages and hours; and in addition they have medical care in case of accidents, free of charge; they have sick and death benefits, etc. For instance, in the city of Chicago the milk drivers charge, I believe, \$100 initiation fee, but in that organization they have a wage scale established over a period of forty years of about \$45 per week, and an eight-hour day; two weeks' vacation with pay; \$15 per week sick and unemployment benefits, and \$1,000 death benefit. The dues charged by the local union are \$4 per month, or \$48 per year. I could not even get the sick benefit guaranteed by the union for the amount of \$48 per year.

"Since the defense program began I have had only one complaint from a member about being taken into the union and paying an initiation fee of \$20, and finding only two or three days' work each week and being out of work two weeks, and he complained the union was unable to find him work.

Indiana Case Cited

"This case was in Madison, Ind. I investigated and found that the man had applied three times for membership so that he might be able to go around and find a job. Eventually he was admitted to membership. This statement appeared in the *Indianapolis News*. I made an investigation and found that the man was not competent of doing a real day's work on a truck and I ordered immediately that the union refund to this individual all the money he had paid in, and my order has been obeyed.

"Of course I know it is needless for me to convince you that Labor is not guilty of all the crimes charged against it; for instance, all of these strikes that are now taking place. The newspaper and radio commentators make it appear that Labor is acting in defiance of the government. As a matter of fact, 95 per cent of the strikes have taken place among men who have been admitted to unions in recent years and who are untrained; and it is equally true that the employers are untrained; and have for years refused to allow organization in their industry.

300 of 500,000 on Strike

"This month we received per capita tax on close to 500,000 members, truck drivers, men running from coast to coast and handling every kind of merchandise and material; and at this writing we have less than three hundred men on strike throughout the nation and those are men who have joined the union within the last year and where employers refused to recognize them or do business with them.

"The CIO may have the power to regulate their initiation fees from the top, but I doubt it. But one thing I know, neither Mr. Green nor the Executive Council (of which I am a member) have the power to regulate initiation fees, and I question whether or not such power will ever be delegated to Mr. Green or the executive council by the membership of the American Federation of Labor in their conventions—which conventions make the laws of the Federation.

"Assuring you of my continued high regard and esteem for your faithful service to the men and women of Labor throughout the nation, permit me to remain,

"Very truly yours,

"(S) DANIEL J. TOBIN,
"General President."

YOU give us a job to do when you elect us to office. You compel us, under our rules, to hold up our hand and solemnly promise to carry out the Constitution and laws. We would be less than men, unworthy of office and of your confidence, if we forgot that pledge and promise. Therefore, when we carry out our solemn and binding obligation, don't find fault with us. We are trying to do the job that you gave us to do as it should be done, and with all our efforts we are sometimes unable to do the job anything like one hundred per cent perfect. Forget personalities in this Labor Movement, and remember that each of us has a duty to perform, and it is much more congenial and we would appreciate it much more not to have to do some things that under our promise and pledge and under instructions from our great convention in adopting our Constitution, we must do.

You also promised us when you got a charter or when you took out membership in our Union, that you, as officers or as individual members, would do everything in your power to carry out the laws, rules and decisions of the Local and International Union. Ask yourself, "Am I doing this?" Remember also that the Local Union cannot make a law that conflicts with the International Constitution that sixteen hundred delegates drafted and created in Constitution Hall, Washington, D. C., in September, 1940. At any rate, try and understand that while your job is difficult, we too have hours and days in which our minds are not free from disturbances and worries. Helping each other, both of us understanding our duties and not forgetting our obligation and our promises, we can continue to make this Union of ours that we love, powerful and respected because it has done so much for our branch of the human family—I repeat, we can continue along the road of progress and helpfulness with honor.

LET us once more urge our members and friends to tell the stores, especially department stores, that you want whatever you purchase delivered to your home—that you do not want to carry it. If you do this you will be helping our Union and you will be helping to re-employ men. As a matter of fact, stores that make their own deliveries sell just as cheaply and give just as good service and quality of goods as stores that advise you that you will save money by carrying the article home.

Help us to find work for our people. Cut out the "cash and carry" plan. Don't let the modern, high-pressure salesman hand you that kind of salesmanship.

Also all our members and their friends should have their milk delivered by a union milk driver. It is fresh and worth half a cent a quart more. Don't run to the stores for a pint of milk. Stop this cut-rate cash-and-carry system that's destroying our labor and making enormous profits for corporations.

Official Magazine of the
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• • •

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